GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3480
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
CULTURE OF BANJARAS
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the culture of Banjaras, Ghumanta Bimukta Jaties in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the culture of Banjaras is getting extinct and they remained most backward community in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to constitute a Committee to survey the States and the lifestyle of Banjaras and preserve the culture, language, handicrafts of this ancient community; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT AMBIKA SONI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Anthropological Survey of India under its monumental research project People of India not only prepares a comprehensive list of the existing communities in India, but also studied the Human surface of India. There are 4635 communities in India which includes the Banjara community.

(c, d & e) The Ministry is already taking various steps to preserve the ethnic culture of Banjaras through the Anthropological Survey of India and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya.

The Anthropological Survey of India have published the report on different communities including various scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and nomadic communities from different parts of the country with special reference to their lifestyle, culture, language and handicrafts including that of the Banjaras. The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya has already carried out field work and developed a very important collection of the material culture and handicrafts of the Banjara style.

The zonal Anthropological Museum in collaboration with the Shilpgram at Udaipur, Rajasthan has established one of the best museums having rich collection of the artifacts on the different communities of Rajasthan including the Banjaras.

The I.G.R.M.S. has organized a number of presentations pertaining to crafts of Banjara people. The museum would further expand its activities based on the culture of this community in future years.